17

CLAIMS

1.   An image processing technique comprising the steps of:

(a)   stretching an original image in the Y-direction (vertical) by a factor

5   falling within the range of 2-10%;

selecting a fixation point and disordering the image centring the disordering

operation around the fixation point; and

rotating the image through an angle falling within the range 3-9°;

(b)   stretching a copy of the original image in the X-direction (horizontal) by

10   a factor falling within the range of 2-10%; and

selecting an area of the image around the selected fixation point; and

(c)   merging the selected area of the image formed in step (b) with the image

formed in step (a).

15   2.   A technique as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising an additional

step of fine tuning the boundary between the images formed in steps (a) and (b).

3.   A technique as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein step (a) of the

processing technique further includes steps of altering the contrast by a factor falling

20   within the range of 10-40% and/or decreasing the colour saturation of the image by a

factor falling within the range 10-40%.

18

4.   A technique according to Claim 3, further comprising a step of

decreasing the brightness by a factor falling within the range 2-40%.

5.   A technique according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the

5   rotation is undertaken in the clockwise direction.

6.   A technique according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the

disordering operation of step (a) involves disordering the image in line with a self-

similar fractal disorder pattern.

10

7.   A technique according to any one of the preceding claims, further

comprising, in step (a), identifying at least one boundary or edge of at least one object

and introducing a disruption in the degree of disordering at the said boundary or edge.

15   8.   A computer programmed to perform the technique of any of the

preceding claims on image data derived from a scanner, a digital camera, or on digital

image data obtained or created from other sources including computer programs.

9.   An image processing technique substantially as hereinbefore described

20   with reference to the accompanying drawings.